

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /026 W
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O 151915 Z MAR 73

FM MEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8396

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION USNATO

S E C R E T PARIS 6510

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, MARR, VN

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF NORTH VIET NAM

REF: A. STATE 047702 B. LONDON 3036

1. ON MARCH 15 POLCOUNS MADE DEMARCHE, DRAWING
ON ARGUMENTS REFTEL A, TO QUAI DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR
ARNAUD.

2. IN REPLY ARNAUD RAN THROUGH PREDICTABLE FRENCH LITANY
IN WHICH HE STRESSED FOLLOWING POINTS. DIPLOMATIC
RECOGNITION DOES NOT IMPLY NECESSARILY APPROVAL OF
PARTICULAR ACTIONS OR POLICIES OF COUNTRY CONCERNED.
SOME VIOLATIONS OF VIETNAM AGREEMENT ARE BOUND TO
OCCUR AND IF FRANCE WERE TO AWAIT IDEAL NORTH VIETNAMESE
PERFORMANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE AGREEMENT, IT WOULD BE
A LONG TIME BEFORE FULL RELATIONS WERE RESTORED WITH
HANOI. IF FRANCE IS TO BE EFFECTIVE IN CAUTIONING
RESTRAINT AND RESPECT FOR VIETNAM AGREEMENT, IT IS
IMPORTANT TO HAVE A SENIOR FRENCH OFFICIAL (I. E. AN

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AMBASSADOR) WHO CAN HAVE EASY ACCESS TO SENIOR DRV
OFFICIALS. OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES, SUCH AS ITALY AND
BENELUX, WILL VERY RAPIDLY HAVE AMBASSADORS IN HANOI, AND
FRANCE CANNOT BE LAST TO DO SO. GOF HAS GONE VERY FAR
IN NEGOTIATING RAISING ITS HANOI REPRESENTATION TO
AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL AND IT THEREFORE VERY
DIFFICULT TO "REVERSE" THIS PROCESS.

3. RE ARNAUD FIRST POINT, POL COUNS SAID HE WAS
FAMILIAR WITH " FRENCH DOCTRINE" ON RECOGNITION
QUESTION. HOWEVER, GDR AND OTHER ANALOGIES DRAWN BY
ARNAUD ARE TOTALLY INAPPROPRIATE IN THIS INSTANCE. WE
ARE DEALING HERE WITH THE AFTERMATH OF A BLOODY AND
DIFFICULT WAR WHICH HAD ABSORBED COUNTLESS AMERICAN
LIVES AND MATERIAL RESOURCES. U. S. INTERESTS IN ESTABLISHING
AND MAINTAINING PEACE ARE CLEAR. IN VIEW OF FRANCE'S
IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE PARIS PEACE CONFERENCE, THE FRENCH
GOVERNMENT'S SIGNATURE OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND CONSIDERABLE RESIDUAL
FRENCH INTERESTS IN INDOCHINA, FRANCE IS ALSO CLEARLY
COMMITTED TO PLAYING ITS PART IN ESTABLISHING AND
MAINTAINING PEACE, WHICH OBVIOUSLY INCLUDES INSURING
RESPECT BY NORTH VIETNAM FOR THE VIETNAM CEASEFIRE
AGREEMENT. AS FOR THE SECOND POINT, POL COUNS
POINTED OUT THESE WERE NOT MINOR VIOLATIONS,
CITING APPROXIMATELY 300 ARMORED VEHICLES AND
30,000 NORTH VIETNAMESE REGULAR TROOPS WHICH HAD
MOVED DOWN THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL DURING LAST SEVERAL
WEEKS. HE ALSO DREW ARNAUD'S ATTENTION TO FACT THAT SEVERAL
THOUSAND OF THESE TROOPS HAD MOVED INTO SOUTH VIETNAM AND THERE
HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE VEHICLE TRAFFIC IN DEMILITARIZED
ZONE RECENTLY. ARNAUD ASKED POL COUNS TO REPEAT THESE, FACTS,
IMPLYING HIS AGREEMENT THESE MUST BE CONSIDERED
SERIOUS VIOLATIONS. AS FOR FRENCH VOICE IN HANOI,
POL COUNS POINTED OUT DELEGATE GENERAL ALREADY ENJOYED
CONSIDERABLE PRESTIGE THERE AND AMBASSADORIAL RANK WOULD
NOT APPRECIABLY CHANGE HIS PRESENT EASE OF ACCESS TO
SENIOR DRV OFFICIALS. POL COUNS AKNOWLEDGED OTHER
WESTERN COUNTRIES CONSIDERING RECOGNITION OF NORTH
VIETNAM, BUT NOTED WE ARE MAKING SIMILAR DEMARCHE
IN OTHER SUCH CAPITALS. FINALLY, POLCOUNS EMPHASIZED
U. S. NOT ASKING FRANCE TO REVERSE ITS DECISION TO
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MOVE TOWARDS FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BUT MERELY

TO " MARK TIME" UNTIL NORTH VIETNAM CEASES ITS PRESENT
LARGE SCALE VIOLATIONS ON THE AGREEMENT. ARNAUD TOOK
CAREFUL NOTE OF DEMARCHE AND SAID HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY
DISCUSS IT WITH HIS SUPERIORS.

4. IN VIEW OF APPARENT BRITISH INCLINATION NOT TO
MOVE RAPIDLY TO FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS (REFTEL B)
AND GROWING DESIRE OF BRITISH AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS TO
HARMONIZE DIPLOMATIC POLICIES WITHIN EC CONTEXT,
DEPARTMENT AND LONDON MIGHT CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF
ASKING HMG TO WEIGH IN WITH GOF. THIS WOULD HAVE
ADDED ADVANTAGE OF ASSUAGING FRENCH FEARS OF
BEING LAST TO RECOGNIZE. GDS
KUBISCH

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